

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS CAIRO, TEL AVIV

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SUBJECT: DAOUDI REAFFIRMS ASAD'S CONTINUED ACCEPTANCE STEP-BY-STEP
APPROACH

REF: A. DAMASCUS 2625; B. DAMASCUS 2787

1. IN TOUR DE HORIZON JULY 24 WITH PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL
ADVISER DAOUDI, I REVIEWED MY RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH
FONMIN KHADDAM ABOUT CAMPAIGN TO EXPEL ISRAEL FROM UN.
NOTED ALSO THAT KHADDAM LAST MONTH IN WASHINGTON AND SINCE
THEN IN DAMASCUS HAD STRESSED UNACCEPTABILITY TO SYRIA
OF MOVEMENT ON ONLY ONE FRONT, REMINDING US OF SYRIAN
INSISTENCE THAT ANY MOVEMENT BE SIMULTANEOUS ON ALL THREE
FRONTS.

2. DAOUDI COOMENTED THAT WE SHOULD INTERPRET KHADDAM'S
WORDS AS EXPRESSING SYRIA'S "PERMANENT OBJECTIVES."
DAMASCUS, HOWEVER, RECOGNIZED THAT USG HAD LONG SINCE DECIDED PUT
ITS MAJOR EFFORT INTO ACHIEVING FURTHER INTERIM STEP
ON SINAI. PRESIDENT ASAD TRUSTS REPEATED ASSURANCES
BY PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY THAT USG WOULD THEREAFTER
MOVE TO ATTEMPT NEGOTIATE FURTHER INTERIM STEP ON GOLAN.
AS FOR MOVEMENT ON "THIRD FRONT," SYRIANS DISAGREE WITH
OUR POLICY RE PLO BUT ARE REALISTIC ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE
THAT NO IMMEDIATE BREAKTHROUGH IN TERMS OF

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US-PLO RELATIONS IS LIKELY.

3. DAOUDI THEN ASKED IF DURING MY MOST RECENT MEETING WITH ASAD (DAMASCUS 2757-NOTAL) I HAD HEARD ANYTHING FROM PRESIDENT WHICH WOULD SUGGEST THAT ASAD'S ACCEPTANCE OF USG NEGOTIATING STRATEGY HAD CHANGED. REPLIED THAT PRESIDENT HAD GIVEN NO SUCH INDICATION. SAID ASAD HAD EXPRESSED PARTICULAR UNHAPPINESS WITH RECENT ISRAELI PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON ARAB LANDS AND CRITICISED AS WELL ALLEGED REMARKS BY OUR NEW AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL AT TIME HIS CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION. DAOUDI SAID HE WAS SURE LATTER QUESTION COULD BE CLEARED UP. I SAID I WOULD BE SUBMITTING REMARKS O THE PRESIDENCY AS SOON AS THEY ARE RECEIVED. (STATE 175057 WITH REMARKS JUST RECEIVED AND TEXT WILL BE FORWARDED TO PRESIDENCY.)

4. ADDRESSING HIMSELF TO CAMPAIGN TO EXPELL ISRAEL FROM UN, DAOUDI SAID THAT SPEAKING AS OLD UN HAND HE CONSIDERED THIS CAMPAIGN COULD BE TURNED OFF PROVIDED THERE IS POSITIVE MOVEMENT ON THE NEGOTIATING FRONT BEFORE THE CONVENING OF THE NEXT UNGA. HE ACKNOWLEDGED HIS CONCERN THAT THIS CAMPAIGN CAN GET OUT OF CONTROL, SAYING HE DOES NOT SHARE KHADDAM'S OPTIMISM THAT SYRIA CAN TOTALLY MASTERMIND THE PROCESS. CERTAIN AFRICAN STATES, FOR EXAMPLE, MIGHT SEIZE BALL AND RUN WITH IT IF SYRIA AND OTHER ARAB STATES HAVE NOT ACTIVELY DISCOURAGED THEM FROM DOING SO PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF FONMINS IN NEW YORK.

5. I SAID IT WAS PRECISELY THIS CONCERN WHICH HAD MOTIVATED US TO SPEAK OUT CONCERNING OUR WORRIES FOR UN'S FUTURE IN SO MANY CAPITALS DURING RECENT WEEKS. WE HAD SERIOUS CAUSE TO FEAR ADVERSE EFFECT ON AMERICAN PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION OF EXPULSION CAMPAIGN, WHOSE DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES COULD EXTEND FAR BEYOND THE CONFINES OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. THEN DISCUSSED SECRETARY'S MILWAUKEE SPEECH AND LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE SUMMARIZING TALKING POINTS OF STATE 170841.

6. DAOUDI REITERATED THAT IF PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY MEANT WHAT THEY HAD SAID AND USG QUICKLY ENGAGED ITS EFFORTS IN SOME PUBLIC WAY FOR EARLY INITIATIVE ON GOLAN, FOLLOWING
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PRESUMABLY SUCCESSFUL INTERIM SETTLEMENT IN NEXT WEEKS ON SINAI, AND IN ADDITION REAFFIRMED AWARENESS ABOUT THE NEED TO DEAL WITH THE PALESTINIAN ASPECT OF WHOLE PROBLEM, THEN EXPULSION CAMPAIGN COULD BE STOPPED AND STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH CONTINUE.

7. COMMENT: DAOUDI'S WORDS ARE SOOTHING BUT QUITE POSSIBLY OVER-OPTIMISTIC REGARDING SYRIAN CAPABILITY TO TURN OFF

EXPULSION CAMPAIGN. GIVEN SUCCESS OF ITS RESOLUTION
AT JIDDA AND LIKELIHOOD OF REPEAT PERFORMANCE AT OAU
SUMMIT, CAMPAIGN APPEARS ALREADY TO BE BEYOND SARG'S
UNIQUE CONTROL.
MURPHY

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